

CLAIMS

1. A steering wheel for a vehicle, comprising:
a central member attachable to a steering column;
an outer rim connected to the central member and having an internal chamber,
5 wherein the outer rim generally encircles the central member; and
a fluid disposed within the internal chamber, wherein the fluid dampens vibration
during steering wheel use.
2. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the internal chamber is continuous
such that the fluid may flow in both a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction from
10 each point within the internal chamber.
3. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a volume selected to
dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of a connected vehicle.
4. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid occupies less than an
entire volume of the internal chamber,
- 15 5. The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the fluid occupies less than three
quarters of the entire volume of the internal chamber.
6. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a viscosity selected to
dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of a connected vehicle.
7. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a weight selected to
20 dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of a connected vehicle.

8. The steering wheel of claim 1, further comprising particles disposed within the fluid.

9. The steering wheel of claim 1, further comprising at least one solid mass disposed within the fluid.

5 10. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof.

11. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to provide a predetermined inertia for the outer rim.

10 12. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the fluid remains in a liquid state between approximately minus 40° Fahrenheit and approximately plus 194° Fahrenheit.

13. The steering wheel of claim 1, wherein the outer rim comprises a sealable hole for inserting the fluid into the internal chamber.

14. The steering wheel of claim 13, further comprising a removable plug sized to be seated in the hole.

15 15. A steering wheel, comprising:
a central member attachable to a steering column;
an outer rim connected to the central member and having an internal chamber,
wherein the outer rim generally encircles the central member; and
a fluid disposed within the internal chamber, wherein the fluid dampens vibration
20 during steering wheel use, wherein the fluid occupies less than an entire volume of the

internal chamber, and wherein the internal chamber is continuous such that the fluid may flow in both a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction from each point within the internal chamber.

16. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the outer rim is generally circular.

5 17. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the fluid occupies less than three quarters of the entire volume of the internal chamber.

18. The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising particles disposed within the fluid.

10 19. The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising at least one solid mass disposed within the fluid.

20. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the outer rim comprises a sealable hole for inserting fluid into the internal chamber.

21. The steering wheel of claim 20, further comprising a removable plug sized to be seated in the hole.

15 22. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the internal chamber is disposed entirely within the outer rim.

23. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof.

24. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of a connected vehicle.

25. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to provide a predetermined inertia for the outer rim.

26. A steering wheel for a vehicle, comprising:
a central member attachable to a steering column of a vehicle;
a generally circular outer rim connected to the central member and having an internal chamber; and
a fluid disposed within the internal chamber, wherein the fluid occupies less than an entire volume of the internal chamber, and wherein the fluid has a volume, viscosity, and weight selected to dampen vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of the vehicle.

27. The steering wheel of claim 26, wherein the fluid occupies less than three quarters of the entire volume of the internal chamber.

28. The steering wheel of claim 26, further comprising particles disposed within the fluid.

29. The steering wheel of claim 26, further comprising at least one solid mass disposed within the fluid.

30. The steering wheel of claim 26, wherein the outer rim comprises a sealable hole for inserting fluid into the internal chamber.

31. The steering wheel of claim 26, wherein the fluid is selected from a group consisting of water, oil, grease, antifreeze, and a combination thereof.

5 32. A steering wheel for a vehicle, comprising:

central member means for attachment to a steering column of a vehicle;

outer rim means for connection to the central member means, the outer rim means having an internal chamber, wherein the outer rim means generally encircles the central member means;

10 a damping means disposed within the internal chamber for damping vibrations of the outer rim caused by operation of the vehicle, wherein the damping means comprises a fluid that occupies less than an entire volume of the internal chamber.